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... *a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service*

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

May Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term May average:

Great Lakes Basin	152%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	156%
Lake Superior	124%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	164%
Lake Ontario	148%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

LEVEL news

Volume 8, Number 6 **June 8, 2000**

May Brings Above Average Rainfall to the Great Lakes Basin

St. Lawrence Board Meeting Draws Large Crowd

The wet weather conditions experienced over the lower Great Lakes in April continued during May and spread to the upper lakes. Preliminary data show that rainfall over the Great Lakes basin was about 52% above average in May. Water levels, however, remain below average on each of the Great Lakes except Lake Ontario.

Lake Superior levels rose 6 cm from the beginning to the end of May. At the beginning of June, the lake remains 25 cm below its long-term average, but has climbed to within a centimetre or two of its Chart Datum.

Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie rose 12, 9 and 12 cm, respectively, during the same period of time. Lakes Michigan and Huron are now 51 cm below average and 25 cm below last year's level. Recreational boaters should note that Lakes Michigan-Huron levels are now a few centimetres above Chart Datum. Lakes St. Clair and Erie began June about 20 cm below their long-term averages. Both lakes are currently about 14 cm below last year's levels.

Levels on Lake Ontario rose 24 cm during May in response to above average water supplies. The lake has risen more than one-half metre in the last two months and is now 15 cm above the average for this time of year.

Rainfall during the first half of May also helped to temporarily boost water levels at the Port of Montréal by mid-May. While levels have declined slightly since that time, they were about one metre above Chart Datum at the beginning of June. At this time last year, harbour levels were just at Chart Datum and well below average.

St. Lawrence Board Meets with the Public

About 130 people attended the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control's annual public meeting held in Olcott, N.Y. on May 30, 2000. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Board to discuss its current activities related to Lake Ontario regulation, and to hear views and concerns from the public. The meeting also provided an excellent forum where various stakeholders from the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River basin spoke and listened to each other about their individual needs and concerns. In addition to their annual public meetings, the Board also keeps stakeholders informed of

May Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term May average:

Lake Superior 86%

Lake Erie 91%

Lake Huron 85%

Lake Ontario 92%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

current water level conditions and Board activities through its web page on the Internet and town-hall meetings attended by Board members. These activities have acted to close the communication gap between the Board and the public. More information on this Board and up-to-date information on Board activities, such as the Lake Ontario outflow strategy, can be found on the Board's web site.

Lake Ontario Regulation

As reported over the past few months, reductions in Lake Ontario outflow below that specified by its regulation plan have resulted in 10 cm of water being conserved on the lake.

On May 30, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control reaffirmed its regulation strategy previously adopted on April 12, after assessing hydrologic conditions and taking into consideration the needs and concerns of stake-holders in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system.

The strategy calls for a gradual elimination of 4 cm of the water stored on Lake Ontario, over the summer beginning June 17. During this period, the Lake Ontario outflow will be 100 cubic metres per second more than specified by the regulation plan. This slight increase in the outflow provides additional water to users downstream of Cornwall, Ontario without accelerating the seasonal decline in Lake Ontario's level during the summer.

The Board also directed that the remaining 6 cm of stored water is to be used to meet critical needs of hydropower on the St. Lawrence River and navigation at the Port of Montreal throughout the fall. Should occasional heat-waves this summer increase demands for electricity, higher flows at the power dams on the St. Lawrence River are possible to help meet these needs.

Superior Board Public Meeting

The International Lake Superior Board of Control's annual public meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2000 at the Presque Isle Park pavilion in Marquette, MI. from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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